7

8

11

20

21

18

## **REMARKS**

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the subject application. Claims 24-35 have been canceled, and claims 1-23 and 36-47 are pending.

## 35 U.S.C. §121 Restriction Requirement

The claims are subjected to a restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. §121 and are characterized by the Office as containing three patentably distinct inventions:

- I. Claims 1-23 and 36-47 drawn to "an apparatus and a method for an antenna element";
- II. Claims 24-31 drawn to an "antenna system comprising antenna boards and a beam-forming network"; and
- III. Claims 32-35 drawn to "a wireless communication system comprising a communication network and a server computing device".

Applicant hereby elects, with traverse, to prosecute claims 1-23 and 36-47 (group I), and to cancel claims 24-35 (groups II and III) in the event that the restriction requirement is maintained. The election is made with traverse because the restriction requirement is improper and should be withdrawn for the reasons discussed below.

## The Claims Commonly Recite Features of an Antenna Element

PLL

The features of an antenna element are common throughout the claims.

The three groups of claims should not be subjected to a restriction requirement when taking into consideration the overall aspects of the antenna element features.

Each of the three groups of claims reference similar features of an antenna element. For example, claim 1 (group I) recites an antenna element comprising a front plate that includes slots configured for wireless communication signal transfer, and a dielectric enclosed in a channel guide. While distinguishable, claim 24 (group II) similarly recites each antenna element including a solid dielectric enclosed in a conductive channel having slots configured for wireless communication signal transfer. Additionally, claim 32 (group III) similarly recites antenna elements that each include a solid dielectric enclosed in a conductive channel having slots configured for communication signal transfer.

Applicant contends that all three claim groups can be conveniently searched and examined together, without burden to the Office, when properly considering the recited features of an antenna element.

2

8

9

10 u

12 13

15 16

14

17

18 19

20

21 22

23

24 25

## Conclusion

Pending claims 1-23 and 36-47 are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and issuance of the subject application. If any issues remain that preclude issuance of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned attorney before issuing a subsequent Action.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: Sep. 9, 2004

By:

Reg. No. 42,905. (509) 324-9256 x 210

lee@hayes